

REMARKS

Claim 23 is the only claim pending in the Application, claims 1-22 and 26-33 having been previously cancelled, and claims 23-25 having been cancelled by the present amendment.

Applicant notes with appreciation that certified copies of the priority documents in parent application Ser. No. 09/942,400 (now U.S. patent 6,863,159) have been received.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the Price patent (5,339,925) was relied upon in the present Action, but was not listed in the Notice of References Cited. The Examiner acknowledged this omission in the 22 March 2005 telephone conversation with Applicant's representative, Jeffrey Lotspeich, and indicated that the Price patent would be made of record in a Supplemental Notice of References Cited. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Price patent be made of record.

Applicant further notes that the Office Action of 7 March 2005 included an objection to the drawing figures. Applicant addressed this objection in the Response filed 7 July 2005. Applicant specifically noted that the claims that recited the features referred to in the Action, claims 27-33, have been cancelled thereby rendering moot the objection to the drawings. The present Action does not mention any drawing objections, and thus it is unclear if this objection has been withdrawn. Applicant respectfully requests clarification on this matter.

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hulsart (U.S. patent 2,661,816). Claims 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Price (U.S. patent 5,339,925).

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

As a preliminary matter, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the 31 October 2005 telephone interview with Jeffrey Lotspeich. Applicant proposed amending claim 23 to include the limitations of claim 26. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment would not be entered since it would require further consideration and search. The Examiner also remarked that it was not possible to determine if such an amendment would define claim 23 over the prior art. Lastly, the Examiner indicated that amending claim 23 so that it includes all of the limitations of claims 24-26 would render this claim allowable. Applicant has amended claim 23 as suggested by the Examiner, and submits that amended claim 23 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 26 was indicated as allowable by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Because Applicant has amended claim 23 to include all of the limitation of claims 24-26, the various features of claim 23 therefore have already been considered by the Examiner. As such, this amendment raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, and accordingly entry is believed proper, and is respectfully requested.

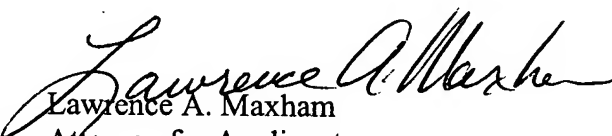
Lastly, Applicant acknowledges the rejection to claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The foregoing amendment to claim 23 makes clear that said rotating member is a drum for winding and unwinding the associated traction cable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain unresolved, Examiner Tran is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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